

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

PARTY PLATFORMS

We hear much discussion of party platforms, and many people pin their faith to what is said in a platform. But after all the platform of any political party is important only as its provisions are carried out. It is a perfectly easy matter to put together a lot of loose promises in high sounding language, and call them a platform, but it is quite another thing to carry out those promises in the interests of good government. The thing that actually counts is what the party accomplishes and not the promises it makes.

The platform of the Democratic party for 1912 declared for all sorts of reforms and was especially strong on declaring for the reduction of the high cost of living. The platform of 1916 repeated those declarations. But when it came to the carrying out of these promises, that was a different matter. Not much of anything was done.

To be specific, the Democratic platform just issued declares for a budget system in very strong terms, but it did the same thing in 1912 and in 1916. For six years the Democratic party had control of the Senate, the House, and had a Democratic president, but continued the most expensive administration we have ever had with no budget system and no check upon expenditures. Finally a Republican Congress passed a law providing for a budget system and President Wilson, upon the advice of his southern friends and backers, held it until it was too late for Congress to act and then vetoed it, thus proving the entire insincerity of the promises for a budget system.

Never before in the history of our country has so much money been spent recklessly as in the past seven years. The expense of operating the government has been simply astounding, and much of that money has been borrowed and must be paid back by the generations yet to come.

It is easy to put a lot of theories into a platform, but what we need is a few hardheaded business principles which are put into actual operation. Study the party platforms and determine for yourself how much is sincere and business-like and how much is camouflage; how much is in earnest and how much is playing to the grandstand to get the vote of this, that or the other faction.

If the government of the United States is to continue we must return to the principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence by our forefathers and quit the bluffing around for the benefit of any special interests. We must get back to the idea of Lincoln of "a government of the people, by the people, for the people."

IMPORTANT SCHOOL MEETING

The annual school meeting will be held next Monday evening, July 12th, and it is a matter of a good deal of importance to the citizens of Alma. The people of Alma have just cause to be proud of their school system which ranks high among the schools of the state. The school is the one democratic institution in which we are mutually interested and to which we all look for the production of well-developed American citizens with high ideals, and right principles of living.

The boys and girls of today are to be the men and women of the next generation and it is of vast importance that they shall be given the right kind of training for the great tasks which will be theirs in managing the affairs of our country in the years to come. America is going to continue great, or is going to deteriorate according to the ideals which our children get in their education of today. No country is ever better than the ideals of its people.

The schools of Alma have been doing very effective work, but they have been very greatly overcrowded during the past few years on account of the rapid growth of the city, hence it is of great importance that more room be provided. The school board has very wisely selected certain sites as suitable for additional school and playgrounds. They, with the Superintendent, have given this matter very careful consideration and the proposition of purchasing will be put up to the voters at the annual meeting for their consideration.

No greater service can be done to the City of Alma than to provide ample school room and ample playground for the children. There is no question but that the City of Alma is bound to grow, and we never can make the necessary school provision more cheaply than now. Every time we do something to make school conditions better we do a real service to the country by aiding the future men and women.

The school belongs to all of us, provides equal opportunities for high and low, rich and poor. It is a public institution, supported at public expense, and for that reason we should join to make it the best possible. Read carefully the recommendations of the board, give them your careful thought and go to the meeting prepared to do what is best for the boys and girls of Alma, whose education and success depends upon the vote of the men and women of today.

The leading political parties have now formulated their platforms and chosen their candidates for the next national election. A few months still remain before that election will be held and the people of the United States will thus be given a chance to express their preference as to party and candidates. Might it not be well in the meantime for each of us, as citizens having the right to vote, to make a careful study, in so far as we are able, of the principles for which each party and each candidate stand and thus be in a position where we may vote intelligently when the time comes.

It is a fact that often the most worthy people are the most unpretentious ones. Real worth does not have to blow a horn and announce to the assembled mob that it is about to appear. Though it may not always be recognized at first, time always tells the story and in the long run true worth is recognized.

When you feel that the world is against you and that you are carrying the heaviest load in the universe, just stop for a while and consider the weight of the burden which your neighbor may be carrying with a smile, and then spend a little more time counting your blessings.

If your Americanism is not strong enough so that you are willing to make some personal sacrifice for your country, there is something wrong with you and you better take an inventory of your qualifications for citizenship.

If all the "bolts" talked about at the Republican National convention were pulled out at once by the "Nuts" who proposed them, it would take an ocean of glue to hold the party platform together.

Buy a lot and build a home in Alma. It will incidentally help the town, but the most important part of the transaction will be to make you a property holder and give you a sense of proprietorship.

One sure sign of good citizenship is loyalty to one's home town, one's state and nation. Keep right yourself, and your example will be an inspiration to others to do the right thing.

The AMERICAN LEGION

ALONG THE LINE OF MARCH WITH THE NATIONAL SERVICE MEN



(Copy for This Department Supplied by National Headquarters of the American Legion)

HANDLES WAR RISK CLAIMS

Head of Service Division of the American Legion Has Had Extensive Experience.



Charles F. Sheridan, head of the service division of the American Legion at national headquarters, Indianapolis, is a native of Oswego, New York, and has had considerable experience in the war risk insurance bureau which enables him to handle with the greatest dispatch the thousands of war risk claims that constantly pass through his office.

Following his graduation from Amherst college in 1912, Mr. Sheridan was engaged in the practice of law in Syracuse, New York, under the firm name of Sheridan & Sheridan, when he entered the service as a private and served until November 1918, when he was commissioned a lieutenant.

He was transferred by the war department to the war risk section, and appointed a battalion sergeant major of infantry, December 1917. He sailed for France on Christmas day of that year and was appointed regimental sergeant major of infantry May, 1918.

His entire service overseas was with the war risk section. From chief clerk of the allotment department, he was promoted to be assistant head, and was finally appointed head of the allotment department.

He was appointed chief of the special service division of the bureau of war risk insurance on February 5, 1919, and continued in that position in Washington until May, 1919, when he was appointed national war risk officer of the American Legion. He was appointed assistant national secretary of the Legion and then director of the service division.

LABOR UNIONS FAVOR LEGION

Kern County, California, Labor Council Recommends That All Members Join World War Body.

While a number of isolated cases of local unions taking action against the American Legion have been given considerable publicity in the press, practically nothing has been said with regard to the hundreds of locals through the country that have endorsed the work of the Legion. A story along this line was recently carried in the Union Labor Journal of Bakersfield, Cal., as follows: There has been a disposition upon the part of some persons who are none too desirous of seeing a friendly spirit developed between organized labor and the American Legion who have gone out of their way to make representations to the effect that union labor is antagonistic to the Legion. This sort of misrepresentation has been indulged in to the extent that false reports have been disseminated to the effect that labor organizations have attacked the American Legion in resolutions of condemnation. In no instance have we known of any such attitude upon the part of a labor organization, nor do we credit as truthful any report to that effect. On the contrary organized labor recognizes the fact that the great mass of the membership of the American Legion are working men to whom a great debt is owed by the nation. It recognizes the further fact that the interests of the members of the Legion are identical with those of the rest of American working men.

The national executive committee as well as the state executive committee of the American Legion has repudiated the attempts of those who have sought to make the Legion an organization antagonistic to labor, a thing which could never be because of the fact that from the ranks of labor came the great majority of the young men who made up the army of democracy.

Union labor has not sought to make of the Legion a partisan of unionism nor can it take kindly to the efforts of those designing ones who try to create enmity between the American Legion and organized labor.

During the present week a statement has gone from Bakersfield to a certain metropolitan paper to the effect that the Kern County Labor Council had in a resolution denounced the American Legion. The report is so maliciously groundless that it could have been inspired only by a desire to influence the Legion and labor organizations elsewhere into an attitude of antagonism.

The Sacramento Labor Council has this week passed a ringing resolution of endorsement of the American Legion and the Kern County Labor Council has taken occasion to deny the charged allegation by stating in unequivocal terms its friendship for the American Legion, its membership and its purposes, in a resolution of endorsement.

We wonder if the author of the libelous report that the Labor Council had denounced the American Legion knows what proportion of the men from this community who served in the military and naval forces was or now are members of organized labor. If he had he would certainly have picked out a com-

munity in which the number of workmen who carry union cards and an honorable discharge from the army was not so numerous as in Kern county. It would surprise him to know that at least half of the men who went into the service from Kern county are or have been members of a labor union.

The resolution follows: "Whereas, The American Legion is an organization composed of men and women who gave their services to the government of the United States or one of the allied powers during the great war; and

"Whereas, The interests of the great majority of the members of the American Legion are known to be identical with the aims and aspirations of organized labor; therefore be it

"Resolved, By the Kern County Labor Council, in regular session assembled, this 23rd day of December, 1919, that we endorse the American Legion and recommend that all members of local unions affiliated with this body eligible for membership in the American Legion take their rightful places as members of that organization."

FRENCH PAY TENDER TRIBUTE

Present Elaborate Certificates to Next Kin of American Boys Who Died in the War.

The French certificates, 118,400 of which were distributed to the next kin of the American soldiers, sailors and marines who died in the war, are beautifully engraved diplomas typical of the artistic nature of the French people. The certificates were distributed by the posts of the American Legion with appropriate exercises on Washington's birthday. In expression of the French government's appreciation of the supreme sacrifice made by these men.

The principal figure of the group symbolizes the soul and spirit of the American army which helped France to maintain alive the flame of the torch of liberty and justice.

The sword is not in the scabbard but ready at any moment to protect and staunchly defend the weak and oppressed, who are symbolized in the group to the left by a mother holding her baby to her breast, and to insure



Certificate Presented to the Kin of Americans.

freedom and justice to the coming generations, represented by the figure of the kneeling boy, praying and thanking God for deliverance.

At the right, the figure of a man, chained and shackled, symbolizes the spirit of evil and the victory over our enemies. Also at the right, crowning the spirit of America, stands "Glory" who rejoices with the old war veteran, standing to the left of the principal figure, symbolizing the armies, who are always ready to fight for the good of humanity.

Universal fame is symbolized by the winged figure, flying over the group, and trumpeting to the world, the great triumph in which the United States participated. The American eagle, posed on the staff of peace, watches zealously and stands ready to swoop in case enemies again endeavor to disturb the peace of the world, so dearly acquired.

The entire group is framed by a border of oak and laurel leaves which are always decreed to the victors.

At the foot of the cenotaph the flags of France and America are draped and joined together by a wreath, which is the mark of gratitude and homage which France pays to our sons who gave their lives for liberty and justice.

The lines engraved on the wall behind the group are taken from one of Victor Hugo's poems, and when translated read, "Those who died plently for their country, have the right that at their graves, the people come to pray."

Humming birds are not found outside the Western hemisphere.

Marriage of First Cousins.

First cousins may marry in Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Don't miss Charles Ray in "The Clodhopper," and "Lightning Bryce" at the Strand Monday.—adv.

See Wm. S. Hart at the Strand Sunday.—adv.

Every woman should see "Every woman."—adv.

Charlie Chaplin—Strand Saturday. adv.

"Cold in the Head" is an acute attack of Nasal Catarrh. Persons who are subject to frequent "colds in the head" will find that the use of HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE will build up the system, cleanse the blood and render them less liable to colds. Repeated attacks of Acute Catarrh may lead to Chronic Catarrh. HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE is taken internally and acts through the blood on the mucous surfaces of the system. All Druggists sell. Testimonials free. 50c per bottle for any case of catarrh that HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE will not cure. F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio.

HAYMAKERS

We Still Have a Few
 Hay Loaders and Side
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Also

Pitchforks, Hand Rakes,
 Hay Rope, Harpoon Forks,
 Pulleys and
 Myers' Hay Equipment

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We get the best money can buy—
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It's Easy to Sell Anything—If

You will set a fair price on the article—
 tell the facts about it in a little WANT
 AD.—and then give your want the widest
 publicity possible by using it in THE
 ALMA RECORD.